

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 131332Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9808

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: VISIT TO PANAMA OF HONDURAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ

ARELLANO - FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

SUMMARY: FOUR DAY STATE VISIT OF GEN. OSWALDO LOPEZ ARELLANO TO PANAMA HAS GOTTEN OFF TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE GOOD START. THE HONDURAN PRESIDENT IS BEING ACCORDED A FULL MEASURE OF PANAMANIAN HOSPITALITY AND HIS VISIT IS PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT LOPEZ ARELLANO AND OFFICIAL PARTY OF FORTY-FIVE ARRIVED AT PANAMA'S TOCUMEN AIRPORT AT 11:25 AM ON FEBRUARY 11 AND WERE GREETED WITH FULL HONORS BY CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT TORRIJOS, FOREIGN MINISTER TACK AND OTHER RANKING MEMBERS OF THE PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD AND GOP. FOLLOWING A BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT, LOPEZ/ACCOMPANIED BY TORRIJOS - CALLED ON PRESIDENT LAKAS AND VICE PRESIDENT SUCRE, THEN DEPARTED FOR CONTADORA ISLAND WHERE HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL FEBRUARY 13 AS THE GUEST OF GEN. TORRIJOS. UPON HIS RETURN TO PANAMA CITY, HE IS SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS OF CEREMONIES AND RECEPTIONS. A PRESS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CALLED FOR THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE SIGNING OF A JOINT DECLARATION.

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2. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY DRAINED BY THE PACE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FEBRUARY 7 VISIT, THE GOP HAS MANAGED TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT LOPEZ IN APPROPRIATE FASHION. WHILE INTEREST IN AND BUILD UP FOR THE LOPEZ VISIT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AFFECTED BY THE GOP'S ALMOST TOTAL PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SECRETARY, THE LOCAL PRESS -- LED BY THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PAPERS -- HAS GIVEN HIS VISIT PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO SO FOR THE REST OF HIS TARY.

3. ON THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN LITTLE OF NOTE. THE FEBRUARY 12 EDITION OF MATUTINO CARRIES ALCAN-EFE ITEMS QUOTING TORRIJOS AS EXPRESSING HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE MORAL SUPPORT HONDURAS HAS GIVEN PANAMA ON THE CANAL ISSUE AND TACK AS SAYING THE GOP WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO HELP RESOLVE THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE. BOTH TACK AND TORRIJOS ARE ALSO QUOTED AS CITING SIMILARITIES IN THE APPROACH OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE POPULAR SECTORS OF THEIR SOCIEITES, AND TORRIJOS REPORTEDLY COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON LOPE'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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